

NEWS FLASH

Updated Evidence on Cannabis Harms – a must read!

Drug Free Australia is urging Parliamentarians and Community Leaders to be fully informed on the escalating science on the [harms of cannabis](#).

This adds to the many harms we have described previously where cannabis is causal in 33 cancers (as against 16 for tobacco) and where Cannabidiol (CBD) is causal in 12, also causal in 89 of 95 birth defects tracked in Europe including hole in the heart which is reaching epidemic proportions in some US States, causal in cancers that make up 70% of paediatric cancers, and also causing premature aging by 30% at the age of 30.

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Further, cannabis performs no better than placebo for chronic pain in a JAMA review of 20 Random Control Trials. This means that the cannabis industry has been pretending there are benefits to cannabis where there plainly are not.

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From the UK Daily Mail

Cannabis 'is worse for our society than heroin,' police tsars say - as they demand government upgrade it to a class A drug.

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'Heroin can kill quickly but the cumulative effect of cannabis in our society may be far worse,' the letter states. It adds that class A status – which comes with potential life sentences for suppliers – was the way forward 'rather than effective decriminalising'.

And renowned psychiatrist Professor Sir Robin Murray, of King's College London, told The Mail on Sunday that the UK may now be 'at the beginnings of an epidemic of cannabis-induced psychosis' which could overwhelm [NHS](#) mental health services.

The commissioners also pointed to other countries where laws are laxer, warning that the US has seen 'unofficial pharmacies' selling cannabis and the powerful opiate fentanyl alongside one another, while Portugal has been forced to consider reversing drug decriminalisation after a 30-fold increase in psychosis.

Let's learn from our Tobacco debacle:

Parliamentarians historically made a decision to protect Australians from the lesser harms of tobacco by reliably informing citizens about tobacco's harms. Yet tobacco was 'a horse that had already bolted', [so cannabis must retain its prohibited status](#) or we repeat the same debacle as tobacco. [And citizens need to be as informed of the science on cannabis as they are on tobacco.](#)

DRUGS & PEER PRESSURE

Peer pressure is a real risk factor for drug use, including alcohol use, among both children and adults.

Here are some facts:

A person may be especially vulnerable to peer pressure if they feel that peer acceptance is important to them, or if they are sensitive to rejection. The perception that alcohol or drug use is expected may also act as a form of peer pressure.

Teenagers may deliberately choose to use drugs to fit in and avoid rejection. Or peer pressure may be more subtle, slowly 'normalising' drug use and making it seem less threatening.

The Voice of Youth: at Drug Free Australia we are keen to hear the thoughts, dreams and advice from teenagers. Many of them are very thoughtful and extremely brave in their actions. The following advice is from a young person who has dealt with peer pressure:

Alison (aged 18) says:

"I started doing drugs when I was 15. All my friends were into it and I honestly felt it was ok to do the stuff with them. I now know that I shouldn't have done and it has taken me over a year to get back to where I'm at today.

I've got drugs out of my body. I still don't feel good about it and some days can be better than others... but I'm looking forwards, not backwards. I think that's important. I know it was peer pressure that got me into that stuff. We all got screwed up. My advice to anyone is if you know that you shouldn't do stuff then don't do it – even if your friends think it's cool. It's not worth it... and your life gets messed up.

I still have some of my friends but they've changed. They're still trying to get their lives together. Don't do drugs. You only get one body and only you can look after it."



KERRYIN'S KORNER

Hi again, Kerryin here.

I thought it would be helpful to share one of the books I have written about my horrific brush with drug use and addiction.

Here is just one review on my book entitled -

'Chasing After the Wind'



Peter wrote:

I am not an avid reader, when I start a book I rarely finish it but I finished Chasing After the Wind in just two days.

Enthralled is not the right word for a book that details such a sad journey, but the story certainly drew me in.

One of the reasons for that is that Kerryin's story is uncannily similar to my stepdaughter's continuing horrific journey into drug despair. I doubt nothing in this book as my wife and I have lived it!

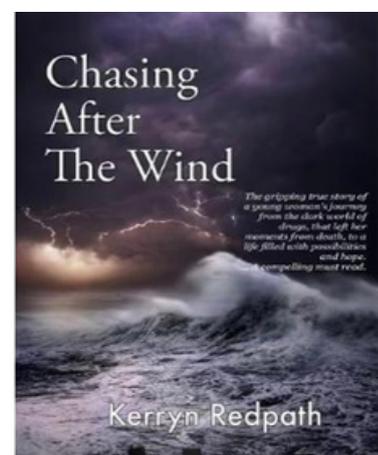
This book should be compulsory reading for all the good parents out there who are blissfully wandering through life thinking it can't happen to their children and also compulsory for the young, who foolishly think they can play Russian roulette with illicit drugs and get away with it.

Well done Kerryin for pouring your heart out in the hope that others will not head down the grim path that sadly you trod.

Regards, Peter R.

To obtain a copy go to:

BUY NOW



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A special APPEAL from the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD) – you can be part of the solution!

Dear WFAD Supporter

Hope this message finds you well. I'm reaching out on behalf of the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD) with an urgent and sincere appeal for partnership. As you know, WFAD has long served as a vital global platform for prevention, treatment, and recovery. Bringing together civil society organisations, empowering youth-led initiatives, supporting trauma-informed care, and contributing to international drug policy debates. Our work has always been driven by collaboration, evidence, and the belief that communities thrive when people are supported to live drug-free lives.

However, like many civil society organisations committed to drug demand reduction, we are currently facing significant financial challenges that threaten our ability to continue operations through the end of the year. We are currently facing a financial shortfall that threatens our ability to maintain core operations through the end of the year. To bridge this gap and ensure continuity of our essential work we are seeking donations to get us to 20,000 USD (or 45,000 for the rest of the year).

In addition to this, we are actively seeking short-term contractual opportunities where WFAD can bring value through the expertise of our team and global network. This could include policy research and analysis, training facilitation, resource development, event coordination, international representation or other relevant technical support.

To sustain this essential work, we are turning to our network with several avenues for support:

- A donation to help bridge our financial gap. Every contribution, no matter the size, strengthens our ability to carry on.
- Short-term contract work: WFAD has deep expertise in policy research, training, resource development, coordination, and international representation. If the Green Crescent has a project or initiative where we can contribute technically or programmatically, we'd be honoured to support.
- Smaller project collaborations: for example a webinar series, development of toolkits or guides, prevention focused interventions, etc.

Your consideration of immediate financial assistance and/or potential collaboration would be deeply appreciated and could make a meaningful difference at a pivotal time for the organisation.

Please let me know if you would like additional information or if you are open to a further discussion with WFAD leadership.

Warm regards,

Regina Mattsson, Secretary General

GET IN TOUCH - regina.mattsson@wfad.se MORE - www.wfad.se



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Drugs & Peer
Pressure...

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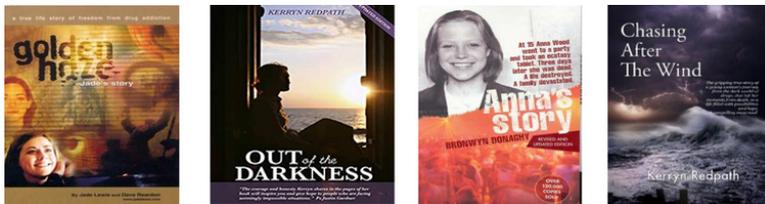


RESOURCES

Click on the images below to access the online resources



Books and more...



For WCTU Primary & Secondary programs contact Dawn Stark:
drug-free@bigpond.com

DAESY



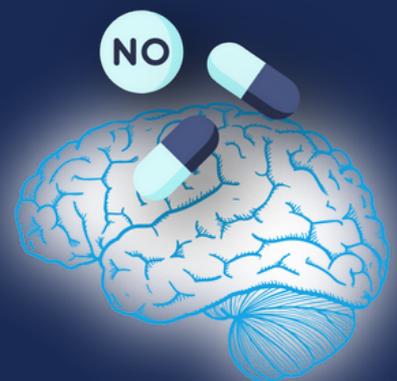
For more information on any of the above, contact:
admin@drugfree.org.au

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